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# BLAINEISM.

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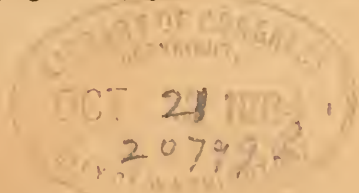
A SHORT CATECHISM

FOR

# Honest Voters.

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H. A. ROSE, Printing Establishment, 3 & 5 North William St., N. Y.

AN ATTEMPT has been made, in the following pages, to draw up a Catechism embodying the moral principles and views of that section of the Republican party which nominated Mr. Blaine at Chicago and is now insisting upon his eminent fitness to occupy the Presidential Chair.

If, as his champions assert, Mr. Blaine's conspicuous virtues deserve such marked and universal recognition at the hands of the American people, the youth of the country cannot too soon have instilled into them the principles so much admired in him by his followers.

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For what were the founders of this Republic distinguished?

For unselfish love of country, truth, honor, and probity, and for hatred of every kind of meanness.

Are those who direct the affairs of the country to-day similarly distinguished?

Happily many of our leading men of all political parties are, but the temptations offered by the greatly increased wealth of the United States have proved too much for the integrity of many others.

Who are these men?

The professional or "machine" politicians.

For what are they distinguished?

Generally for utter selfishness, a very low standard of honor and honesty, aptness for jobbery and speculation, and thinly disguised contempt for old-fashioned notions of the value of truth, rectitude and civic virtue.

Will this description hold good of the machine politicians, as you term them, of both the great political parties?

Yes, it will.

Is it true of the men who are advocating Mr. Blaine's election?

Eminently so. His selection as their standard bearer and candidate for the Presidency has nauseated the best men of the Republican party, who are in open revolt against having the representative of political dry-rot forced upon them.

What are the symptoms of this special kind of dry-rot?

The advocacy of ideas and practices such as they find themselves forced to espouse and champion in Mr. Blaine.

What are these ideas?

Their foremost orators and most "influential" men tell us that lying equivocation and deceit, dishonorable practices, the barter of official influence, self-abasement and the lowest kind of selfishness are proofs of the "highest honor and integrity."

Then, what is their definition of a lie?

To judge by their present speeches, they hold there is no such thing. In the earlier and better days of this republic, any and every intentional violation of the truth was held to be a lie. But to-day the supporters of the Republican Candidate for the Presidency maintain that an intentional untruth is not a lie.

What is their object in so doing?

To prove that wrong is right, that dishonor is not dishonorable, that prostitution of official position for private gain is not shameful, and that inveterate lying is nothing but "brilliaucy."

Is it possible that influential men of the Republican party are engaged in thus debauching the public conscience?

The answer is to be found in the daily press. The columns of the newspapers are full of speeches by the foremost supporters of the Republican candidate, who insist that he is "above reproach, without a blemish or a stain," and not only that he is fit, but that he is actually the *fittest* man in their party and in the country to stand at the head of the United States government.

Is the whole Republican party acting in this way?

No. Many conscientious, high-minded Republicans have determined, if possible, to purge their party of this foulness and have, for the time being, broken away from it. They have publicly expressed their resolve to have no hand or part in such shame.

What can induce men of usually sound judgment to act as Mr. Blaine's supporters are acting?

Blind, unreasoning partisanship. The *machine* politicians among them, being generally devoid of conscience, are led by the prospect of gain in the shape of offices. These men control large bodies of unthinking followers. That is not surprising. But that the thinking, otherwise honorable men of a political organization can be so utterly

blinded by party spirit as to trample upon the plainest laws of morals in supporting a man totally unfitted for the presidential office, is a sad and grievous thing.

Do they then hold "party" dearer than conscience?

Unfortunately it would seem so. Or, at least, they are so desperately intent upon keeping their party in power that they either refuse to believe the plainest evidence or satisfy themselves with quibbles which if employed towards themselves in their everyday business would revolt and outrage them.

What do you conclude from this?

That party spirit carried to extremes, as in the present instance, befogs the mind, warps the judgment, deadens the sense of honor and is a bad, dangerous thing.

Why dangerous?

Because the majority of mankind are led, and are prone to adopt the views of their leaders upon matters of right and wrong. The greatest popular convulsions the world has ever seen have originated in the befoolful influence of popular leaders without conscience.

From which you further conclude—

That there rests upon the men whom the people honor with their confidence, and to whom they look for guidance, a tremendous responsibility which ought to deter them from breaking down the barriers between right and wrong, and which, in case of the highest place in the gift of the people, ought to render them exacting rather than lenient. By acting on a totally opposite principle, the present leaders of the Blaine party are educating the people to discard those sound principles of political judgment and action on which the safety of the Commonwealth is based.

To come to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. What are his duties and functions?

His weightiest duty is the appointment of the various House Committees. Of these Committees there are over forty, the most important being those on Appropriations, on Ways and Means, on Railways and Canals, on Banking and Currency, on Commerce, on Military and Naval Affairs, on Post Offices and Post Roads, on Public Lands, on Public Buildings, on Pacific Railroads, on Rivers and Harbors, on Pensions, Claims, War Claims, Treasury, War, and Navy Departments, etc.

Is the responsibility of the speaker in appointing these Committees great?

Undoubtedly. Practically they hold the purse strings of the nation. All legislation affecting great corporations, willing to pay handsomely for "favors," is subject to certain among them.

From which you argue?



That nothing is simpler than for a speaker, who desires to "make the most of his opportunities," to appoint on these Committees intimates of his own with an understanding that the profits of corruption are to be divided. The ways in which his power may be abused to his own advantage are numberless.

Should the Speaker, then, be above suspicion?

Mr. Blaine's apologists distinctly affirm that he need be nothing of the sort, but that a strong flavor of jobbery is rather a feather in his cap.

To which you reply?

It is left to the conscience of the people to settle that question in November.

To proceed: What are the charges made against the Republican candidate?

That, while Speaker of the House of Representatives, he used his official position to favor a certain railroad enterprise at the expense of the people's interests; that for so doing, after reminding the beneficiaries that he had done them *a great favor*, he received a large consideration (stock and bonds of the road); that when pressed as to this transaction by a Congressional Committee, he denied ever having received any such bonds, except upon the open market terms of purchase; that his correspondence with Josiah Caldwell and Warren Fisher, Jr., shows such statement to have been false in every particular; that he got possession from Mulligan of a portion of the correspondence incriminating him, refused to return it, and begged Mulligan on his knees not to hand it to the Committee, as it would be his ruin; that when the Committee was nearing the end of the enquiry he was conveniently sunstruck, and so remained until the end of that Session of Congress; that by device he got into the Senate, and so removed himself from the jurisdiction of the House of Representatives; that he did not, as a man of honor should have done, insist upon the vindication of his character by the prosecution of the Committee's enquiry at the end; that, having official knowledge of a proposed expansion of the Currency to the amount of from fifty to seventy millions, he offered to use his official position and influence to procure *through favoritism*, as he himself expressly stated, a bank charter for men to whom he acknowledged himself indebted for letting him share in profitable schemes without any risk to himself; that by such jobbing and trading of his official position and influence he laid the foundation of a fortune which to-day he counts by millions; that during his whole career in the House of Representatives and the Senate he has been the stoutest Champion of the great Railroad Corporations against legislation framed to force them to keep faith with the people of the United States; that, as Secretary of State his craving for notoriety betrayed him into positions which brought humiliation and contempt on the Administration and its



foreign policy, notably in his attitude towards Great Britain on the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty question, and towards Peru on that of the Landreau Guano claims.

Have these charges against Mr. Blaine been proved?

The best men of the Republican party are so satisfied with the proofs that to-day they are at the head of organizations whose sole avowed aim and object is to defeat Mr. Blaine at the polls.

To what do these gentlemen point in proof?

To Mr. Blaine's own correspondence, comprising about twenty-five letters written by him to Warren Fisher, Jr., of Boston. To his speeches and votes in Congress. To Senator Edmunds' letter, expressing *his belief that Mr. Blaine was on the side of the Railroads* during the great struggle over the Thurman Act in 1878. To his State Papers, written while head of the State Department, especially his correspondence with Earl Granville, and his instructions to S. Hurlbut, the then United States minister to Peru, &c.

Why is Mr. Blaine's published correspondence with Warren Fisher, Jr., called the "Mulligan" letters?

Because Mulligan was Fisher's bookkeeper, and also cashier of the Adams Sugar Refinery, Boston, in which Fisher was a partner. Upon Fisher's insolvency Mr. Blaine's letters came into Mulligan's hands with the other assets. Fisher was also a contractor for a portion of the Little Rock and Fort Smith R. R., and was also *a business partner of Mr. Blaine's brother-in-law*. Mulligan took these letters to Washington to use them in case of need before a Committee appointed to investigate the sale of certain Little Rock and Fort Smith bonds to the Union Pacific R. R. Co., for which it was charged that the Union Pacific Co. had paid largely in excess of their actual or market value. This transaction was laid at Mr. Blaine's door, and the Committee were really investigating him. The fact of Mulligan, Fisher's bookkeeper, having held the letters involving Mr. Blaine in the Little Rock and Fort Smith bond business, caused these documents to be called the "Mulligan" letters.

Then they were not written by Mulligan?

No. They were written by James G. Blaine.

Was Mr. Blaine aware of the existence of these letters at the time the Committee was investigating him?

He was made aware of it by Mulligan informing the Committee that he had the documents with him in Washington.

Upon this announcement, what did Mr. Blaine do?

He at once asked Mr. Lawrence, the Republican member of the Committee, to "move an adjournment."

Did the Committee adjourn?

Yes, until ten o'clock the next morning.

What happened then?

Mr. Mulligan then made the following statement under oath:

"I would ask the indulgence of the Committee to make a personal and, to me, a painful statement. When I first arrived in this city, and within about fifteen minutes after my arrival, there came a communication from Mr. Blaine to Mr. Fisher. Of course, I wish it to be understood I am stating this under oath.

MR. HUNTON. We so understand it.

MR. MULLIGAN. There came a communication from Mr. Blaine, inviting Fisher and me up to his residence. I declined to go, for the reason that I did not want to have it said that I had gone to see Mr. Blaine. I wanted to come to this committee room untrammelled by any influence. Mr. Fisher went up to Mr. Blaine's house, or at least, he so reported to me; and he told Mr. Blaine about certain facts that I could prove, and certain letters that I had got. Mr. Blaine said that if I should publish them they would ruin him for life, or that if this committee got hold of them they would ruin him for life, and wanted to know if I would not surrender them. I told him "no," and that I would not give them to the committee unless it should turn out that it was necessary for me to produce them. After my examination here yesterday, Mr. Blaine came up to the hotel, the Riggs House, and there had a conference with Mr. Atkins, Mr. Fisher, and myself. He wanted to see these letters that I had. I declined to let him see them. *He prayed, almost went on his knees—I would say on his knees—and implored me to think of his six children and his wife, and that if the committee should get hold of this communication, IT WOULD SINK HIM IMMEDIATELY AND RUIN HIM FOREVER.* I told him I should not give them to him. He asked me if I would let him read them. I said I would if he would promise me on the word of a gentleman that he would return them to me. I did let him read them over. He read them over once and called for them again and read them over again. He still importuned me to give those papers up. I declined to do it. I retired to my own room and he followed me up, and went over the same history about his family and his children, and implored me to give them up to him, and even contemplated suicide. He asked me if I wanted to see his children left in that state, and he then asked me again if I would not let him look over these papers consecutively (I had them numbered). I told him I would if he would return them to me. He took the papers, read them all over, and among them I had a memorandum that I had made by way of synopsis of the letters, and referring to the number of the letters—a synopsis containing the points of the letters. I had made that memorandum so as to be able to refer to here when questioned. He asked me to let him read the letters and I showed him this statement too. After he had them read, he asked me what

I wanted to do with those papers; if I wanted to use them. I told him I never wanted to use the papers, nor would not show them to the committee unless called upon to do so. Then he asked me if I would not give them to him. There was one letter in particular that he wanted me to give to him. I told him I would not do it, and the only reason I would not do it was because I saw it stated in one of the evening papers here, the *Star*, I think, that the Blaine party were going to completely break down the testimony that I had given yesterday—that they were satisfied about that. I said I should not publish these letters unless my testimony were impeached or impugned. This was the only reason that I wanted to keep them, but I wanted to keep them for that purpose. These are the facts, gentlemen, and I leave them to you. If I understood the order under which the committee meets, this committee has power to send for persons and papers, and I want the committee to get for me those papers. Mr. Blaine has got them, and would not give them up to me.

By MR. LAWRENCE—Mr. Blaine has these papers? A. Yes; he took them from me last night.

To MR. LAWRENCE—No one was present but Mr. Blaine and I. \* \* I did not get them (the letters) surreptitiously. They were given to me by Mr. Fisher for any purpose I deemed proper.

To MR. ASHE—Mr. Blaine has the memorandum.

Did Mr. Blaine produce the aforementioned letters before the committee?

He did not, neither did he return them to Mulligan. He subsequently read them to the House in such order and with such omissions as he deemed necessary to his exoneration, adding that they formed the whole—his own words were: "*every scrap and scrimption*"—of the letters withheld from Mulligan.

Was the whole correspondence comprised in the letters withheld by Blaine?

By no means; for even as late as September 15th, 1884, Messrs. Fisher and Mulligan published another series of Mr. Blaine's letters relating to the same transactions, which were, if possible, more damaging than those previously published.

What do these letters prove?

The honorable men of Mr. Blaine's own party who are strenuously opposing his election claim that they completely prove the bulk of the charges hereinbefore recited as being made by them against him.

Can you give any extracts from these letters which prove or tend to prove the charges made, with such comments as may throw light on the correspondence?

Mr. Blaine, in his letter of June 29th, 1869, writes to Fisher: "Your offer to admit me to a participation in the new railroad enterprise is in every respect as generous as I could expect or desire."

Mr. Blaine solemnly asserted that he purchased the bonds at the open

market price. If that was the case, how could Mr. Fisher be *generous* to him in the matter?

He next speaks of Caldwell's disposing of a share of his interest to him (Blaine). This cannot have meant selling it to him, because, just after, in his letter Blaine says that "perhaps if he (Caldwell) waits until the full development of the enterprise, he (Caldwell) might grow reluctant to part with the share, adding, he (Blaine) did not by this mean *any distrust* of him (Caldwell). If Blaine were buying this share, or intending to buy it at the full market value, his words would have no sense.

In order to spur Fisher's *generosity* to prod Caldwell's possible *reluctance*, Blaine adds: *I do not feel that I shall prove a deadhead in the enterprise, if I once embark in it. I see various channels in which I know I can be useful.*

The honorable Republicans who charge Mr. Blaine with prostituting his official position as Speaker of the House of Representatives for private gain ask: What, to any man of sense, is the plain meaning of these words used to Mr. Fisher and Caldwell? Is it not that the man who had been to him in every respect, while admitting him to a participation in the new railroad enterprise, *as generous as he could expect or desire*, might count upon a *quid pro quo*? If Mr. Blaine paid or intended to pay for his bonds in the Little Rock & Fort Smith R. R., what need was there for him to evince his gratitude for a generosity which snapped up his money like that of any common speculator, by assuring Fisher he saw *various channels* in which he knew he could be useful? Did the man who read these lines from the Speaker of the House of Representatives construe them as meaning: I intend to buy my bonds at the open market rate, and feel so delighted as being able to do so that I consider myself greatly indebted to those who are kind enough to take my money for them?

Mr. Blaine stated, did he not, that he never owned a share of stock or a bond of the above mentioned railway for which he did not pay the open market price?

He did.

What has Mr. Fisher to say to this?

In a letter dated April 12th, 1872, to Mr. Blaine, Mr Fisher says: "I have loaned you at various times, when you were comparatively poor, very large sums of money, and never have you paid me one dollar from your own pocket, either principal or interest. I have paid sundry amounts to others to whom you were indebted, and these debts you have allowed to stand unpaid like the notes which I hold. I have placed you in position whereby you have received very large sums of money without one dollar of expense to you, and you ought not to forget the act on my part. Of all the parties connected with the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad no one has been so fortunate as



yourself in making money out of it. You have obtained subscriptions from your friends in Maine for the building of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad. Out of their subscriptions you obtained a large amount, both of bonds and money, *free of cost* to you. I have your own figures and know the amount. *Owing to your political position you were able to work off all your bonds at a very high price, and the fact is known to others as well as myself.* Would your friends in Maine be satisfied if they knew the facts?

Now as to the Bank Business.

In a letter from Augusta, Maine, dated November 18th, 1869, Mr. Blaine writes to Mr. Fisher: "It is quite evident to my mind there will be an expansion of the Currency to the amount of fifty to seventy-five millions of dollars. The form it will take, I think, will be an addition to the National Bank Circulation West and South. My object in writing is to ask in season if your friends would desire to establish a Bank at Little Rock? It will be to some extent *a matter of favoritism* as to who gets the Banks in the several localities, and it will be in my power to "cast an anchor to the windward" in y'r behalf if you desire to.

Well, these are sufficient extracts touching upon the charge of Mr. Blaine's using his official position in the manner alleged. Was there not, however, a letter from Mr. Blaine containing copy of another letter of *exoneration* which Mr. Blaine requested Fisher to send him as though written by Fisher himself?

Yes. And as this letter is quite characteristic, considering Fisher's letter of April 12th, just quoted, it is as well to give it in full:

[Confidential.]

WASH'TN, D. C., 16th April 1876.

MY DEAR MR. FISHER: You can do me a very great favor, and I know it will give you pleasure to do so—just as I would do for you under similar circumstances. Certain persons and papers are trying to throw mud at me to injure my candidacy before the Cincinnati Convention, and you may observe they are trying it in connection with the Little Rock and Fort Smith matter.

I want you to send me a letter such as the inclosed draft. You will receive this to-morrow (Monday) evening, and it will be a favor I shall never forget if you will at once write me the letter and mail the same evening.

The letter is strictly true, is honorable to you and to me, and will stop the mouths of slanderers at once.

Regard this letter as strictly confidential. Do not show it to any one. The draft is in the hands of my clerk, who is as trustworthy as any man can be. If you can't get the letter written in season for the

9 o'clock mail to New York, please be sure to mail it during the night so that it will start first mail Tuesday morning; *but if possible, I pray you to get it in the 9 o'clock mail Monday evening.* Kind regards to Mrs. Fisher. Sincerely,  
J. G. B.

[Burn this letter.]

[Indorsed on the back.]

Not knowing your exact address I send this to the Parker House in order that it may [not] be subjected to any danger in the hands of a carrier.  
J. G. B.

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The Western Union Telegraph Company.

Dated WASHINGTON, D. C., 1876.

Received at 9:44, April 16.

TO WARREN FISHER, COMMONWEALTH HOTEL: Please go to Parker House to-morrow, Monday evening; on arrival morning mail from New York, find letter. Answer by return mail.

19 D. H.

J. G. BLAINE,

*xsm.*

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Enclosed in the foregoing letter, dated 16th April, was the following:

BOSTON, April 16, 1876.

*The Hon. James G. Blaine, Washington, D. C. :*

DEAR SIR: I observe that certain newspapers are making or rather insinuating the absurd charge that you own or had owned \$150,000 of Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad bonds, and that you had in some way obtained them as a gratuity.

The enterprise of building the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad was undertaken in 1869 by a company of Boston gentlemen, of whom I was myself one. The bonds of the road were put upon the market in this city on what was deemed very advantageous terms to the purchaser. They were sold largely through myself. You became the purchaser of about \$30,000 of the bonds on precisely the same terms that every other buyer received, paying for them in instalments, running over a considerable period, just as others did. The transaction was perfectly open, and there was no more secrecy in regard to it than if you had been buying flour or sugar. I am sure you never owned a bond of the road that you did not pay for at the market rate. Indeed, I am sure that no one received bonds on any other terms.

When the road got into financial difficulties and loss fell upon you you still retained your bonds, and you held them clear through to the reorganization of the company in 1874, exchanging them for stock and bonds of the new company.

You acquired also some demands against the new company by reason of your having joined with others in raising some money when the company was in pressing need. For the recovery of that money pro

ceedings are now pending in the U. S. Circuit Court in Arkansas, to which you are openly a party of record. Concealment of the investment and everything connected with it would have been very easy had concealment been desirable; but your action in the whole matter was as open and as fair as the day. When the original enterprise failed, I knew with what severity the pecuniary loss fell upon you, and with what integrity and nerve you met it. Years having since elapsed, it seems rather hard at this late day to be compelled to meet a slander in a matter where your conduct was in the highest degree honorable and straightforward.

You may use this letter in any way that will be of service to you.  
Very sincerely yours, W. F., Jr.

For the purposes in view that is sufficient. Give a brief outline of the remainder of the correspondence.

These letters, which can be readily procured, prove conclusively that Mr. Blaine did own both mortgage bonds and land bonds of the Little Rock and Fort Smith R. R.; that he did *not* pay for them all at the market rates; that they came to him mostly under a contract with Fisher, by which he undertook to induce his friends in Maine to subscribe to the stock of the road; that his transactions were not open, for, in his letter to Fisher, of October 4th, 1869, he says: "*No one will ever know from me that I have disposed of a single dollar in Maine;*" and that he was desperately bent upon making the most out of the job.

What is the plain and fair inference to be drawn from Mr. Blaine's course, as revealed in this correspondence?

That his political position and influence were traded upon for purposes of private gain. Further, that a man who fights for his "bone" with the dogged tenacity shown in this correspondence, was very unlikely to let any chance slip which came in his way. The fact that the most notorious lobbyist of this generation presented Mr. Blaine, while Speaker of the House, with a testimonial, makes such an inference a perfectly fair one. The statements attributed to Mr. James F. Joy, the railway magnate of Michigan, by men who heard them from his own lips, point in the same direction.

What are those statements?

That he (Joy), wishing to have an able lawyer appointed on a Committee in a dispute between the Osage Indians and the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston R. R., touching some valuable lands, applied to Mr. Blaine, then Speaker, to appoint such a man. On the following day an intimate friend of Mr. Blaine came to Joy and told him if he would buy of Mr. Blaine \$25,000 in the bonds of the Little Rock and Fort Smith R. R. *at par*, Mr. Blaine would make up the Committee as far as possible just as Mr. Joy desired to have it made up.

Why *at par*?

Because at that time the bonds had greatly depreciated.



Does Mr. Blaine's recently published correspondence with the elder Sanford throw any further light on his stock transactions?

Yes: it contains a false statement, more startling perhaps than any yet laid to his charge. In a long letter written by him to Joseph A. Sanborn, Oct. 29th, 1869, he asserted that the land grant of 1,600,000 acres, belonging to the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad, was then selling at a minimum of \$10 per acre. At that very time, the railroad was prohibited by then existing legislation from selling these very lands to settlers at more than \$2.50 per acre, and this identical legislation was not repealed until the early part of the year 1870.

What else does the correspondence show?

That Mr. Blaine's assertion, apropos of the Hocking Valley Iron and Coal Land business, viz.: that he never induced any one to speculate in such matters, is not true. For, his letter to Sanborn of October 28th, 1869, while making the assertion in one sentence, utterly disproves it in another.

What is the text of that letter?

The following:

Parker House, Boston, Oct. 28th, 1869.

*Friend Sanborn:—*Excuse my urging you to be punctual in your advising me of your final conclusion touching the railway matter. There are parties here pressing Fisher for a chance, and I am not able to prolong the option. You know I never urge any man into a speculation, but the more I see and know of this, the more confidence I feel in it.

Yours hastily,

J. G. Blaine.

In his letter of October 26th, that is two days previously, what did Mr. Blaine write?

*"A rare chance is offered to those who will subscribe to the Common stock. It is offered only among friends in a confidential way."*

What did he write on May 6th, 1870?

*"In regard to the Little Rock and Fort Smith I am completely satisfied that your investment will really prove better than I ever represented it. . . . Do you desire any more of the stock and bonds? If you do, it may be in my power to give you a chance, for I still have some valuable options which I might give you partial advantage of, in the absence of ready capital to take advantage myself of the investment. . . . If a gross sum of \$40,000 could be raised [I] could command a splendid advantage on the investment."*

Do these quotations bear out Mr. Blaine's statement that he never urged any man into speculation?

Mr. Blaine's idea of "urging" may not tally with that entertained by mankind generally; but if the most forcible kind of persuasion is

not to be found in this correspondence, language has no definite meaning.

What else do these letters reveal?

That he was anxious to hoodwink the man who, he said, had been most generous in admitting him to a share in the enterprise, for he writes to Sanborn, on November 26th, 1869: "I don't want Mr. Fisher to know that I have made the optional agreement, for he thinks half is *absolutely* mine. Just let that be private between us."

What general observations does the foregoing evidence when properly substantiated, suggest?

That a few such facts are like the red spots on the stomach of a patient suffering from typhoid fever. They indicate with certainty the *general* condition of the blood, and the presence of dangerous disease.

Anything else?

Merely that the disease is highly contagious and infectious, especially if its nature is not acknowledged and it is not vigorously combatted.

Explain yourself.

I mean that all who are taught to look upon it as harmless and breathe the atmosphere vitiated by the patient, are likely to catch it.

With what result?

Rapid and universal corruption.

Do Mr. Blaine's supporters take this view?

No. They insist that such use of position and influence is not only legitimate, but commendable, and the logical consequence of their view is, that the man most deeply implicated in transactions such as those detailed in the foregoing pages, is the fittest man to represent the "strictest honor and integrity" of the country.

On which you observe?

That the advocacy of such views by a great political party is nothing less than a national calamity.

Why?

Because it holds out the highest rewards to the meanest of human vices. Because it tends to debauch the moral sense of a whole country and saps the very foundations on which good, clean government rests. Because it breeds in the people cynical distrust of, and contempt for their rulers, and strikes directly at the authority of law and order.

On what is that authority founded?

On truth and justice.

What is a vote?

Every honest man's weapon and the country's defence against jobbery, corruption and misrule.

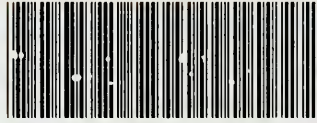
Can a man vote as he pleases ?

A vote is a public trust to be used for the general welfare, and, consequently, a man is bound in honor and conscience, as between a fit and an unfit candidate for any weighty and responsible office, to vote against the unfit candidate.

How about buying and selling votes ?

The man who does either the one or the other is a scoundrel, and all aiding and abetting in such work are scoundrels and traitors to the best interests of their country.

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